



“How to Apply” Workshop For

THE USDA RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

Helena Great Northern Hotel

835 Great Northern Blvd.

Helena, Montana

Come to a **FREE workshop** and learn about the USDA Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program!

- **Improve the quality of your Broadband loan application!**
- **Learn how to use the Broadband Loan Application Guide!**
- **Speak with Broadband Program experts from Washington, D.C. and state offices!**
- **Consult with the Broadband Program experts about your specific project or application!**

THIS WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS ON THE BROADBAND LOAN PROGRAM'S APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING:

- √ *Loan Purpose*
- √ *Loan Maturity*
- √ *The Business Plan*
- √ *The Market Survey*
- √ *Proposed Communities*
- √ *The Engineering/System Design*
- √ *Financial Information*
- √ *Credit Support*
- √ *Loan Collateral and Security Requirements*

Hear from Rural Development's Broadband experts on:

- ❖ What the Broadband Program is all about
- ❖ What types of loans are available
- ❖ Information on loans made to date and pending applications
- ❖ Common problems with submitted applications
- ❖ Requirements for a comprehensive market survey
- ❖ Eligibility requirements for:
 - Borrowers
 - Communities
 - Broadband services
 - Types of technology

Please Register Today!

DETAILS ON HOW TO REGISTER ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

*How to Register for the Free
"How to Apply" Broadband Workshop:*

December 8, 2004
BW Helena Great Northern Hotel
835 Great Northern Blvd., Helena, Montana
406-457-5500; www.gnhotelhelena.com

To register, please contact Brenda Sorensen, Special Projects Coordinator, Montana USDA Rural Development, in Bozeman, MT at brenda.sorensen@mt.usda.gov ; 406-585-2580. Please provide attendee name, organization/company, address, phone number, and email address; also indicate if you would like an individual appointment with the Broadband staff following the workshop. For general information on the workshop, please contact Mary Campanola, USDA Rural Development, Washington, DC at mary.campanola@usda.gov; 202-720-8822. Media contact: Claiborn Crain at claiborn.crain@usda.gov; 202-720-1263.

The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until approximately 3:00 p.m. local time. There will be a one-hour lunch break. Workshop attendees will need to make their own arrangements for lunch. The Rural Development Broadband staff will be available following the workshop to meet with attendees by prior appointment. The Broadband staff will also be available for individual appointments from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon on December 9 if required. Please indicate when registering if you would like an individual appointment.

Agenda – December 8, 2004

8:00-8:30 a.m.	Refreshments
8:30 a.m.	Introductions & Welcome Robert S. Leigland, Acting USDA Rural Development State Director, Montana U.S. Senator Conrad Burns (by videoconference) Hilda Gay Legg, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, USDA
9:00 a.m.	Broadband Workshop: Broadband Staff and General Field Representatives
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
3:00 p.m.	Conference concludes
3:30 p.m.	Individual meetings with Broadband Staff and Rural Development General Field Representatives for interested attendees (following the conclusion of the workshop).

NOTE: The Broadband Loan Application Guide will be provided at the workshop. You can also download the guide from the Rural Development website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/broadband.htm>.

About the USDA Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program:

The USDA Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program provides loans and loan guarantees for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in eligible rural communities. Priority is given to applications that are proposing to serve areas where no residential broadband service currently exists. Information on the USDA Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program is available at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Issue Date: November 2004